The Journal

OF THE

Jamaica Agricultural Society.

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society, No. 11 North Parade, Kingston, on Thursday, 10th March, 1910, at 11.40 a.m. Present: His Grace the Archbishop, Bishop Collins, Hon. George McGrath, Messrs. R. Craig, A. W. Douet, C. A. T. Fursdon, E. W. Muirhead, and the Secretary, Jno. Barclay.

An apology for absence was submitted by Mr. A. C. L. Martin, who objected to the meeting being altered from the regular date, the 17th. The Secretary explained that all the other members had agreed that the time would suit them under the circumstances that had been put forward.

Other members of the Board were engaged at the session of the Legislative Council.

Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting as published in the February JOURNAL, were taken as read and confirmed.

The following matters arising out of the previous minutes were submitted—:

(a) Railway Freights. The Secretary submitted the comments of the Staple and Minor Products Committee on the revised Railway freights, a statement of which had been submitted by the Directors of the Railway through the Colonial Secretary's Office for the consideration of the Board. The Secretary also submitted a memorandum on the subject. He was instructed to publish all the papers on the subject, for reference. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Fursdon said that he occasionally had to ship calves, and the Railway did not seem to know exactly what a calf was or how to charge for it. He suggested that the Board should appoint a Committee to inquire into the whole matter of the working of the Railway from a commercial point of view. Perhaps the Committee would be able to help the Railway in many respects. Mr. Douet seconded.

The Secretary said that there was a small trade in shipping dairy-bred calves to the country to be raised there, and if a definite rate could be fixed for calves up to a certain age, this would be a convenience and help to increase the trade.

The Archbishop supported and said he had long thought that some body like the Agricultural Society, should very strongly take up this question. He thought that the logical policy of the Railway should be to give every chance of development for the produce of the country, and quoted the policy of some European countries, notably Hungary—the point of which was that as all the people in the country had to share in the cost of a Government Railway, the more distant producers were from the shipping port, the less ratio should be charged for freight.

The following Committee was appointed :—The Archbishop, Mr. Craig, Mr. Fursdon, Mr. Muirhead and Mr. Martin.

No. 289/13736. C.S.O., Jamaica, 11th January, 1910.

Sir.—With reference to your letter No 4398, dated the 23rd of October, 1909. I am directed by the Governor to forward herewith for the observations of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, a copy of a minute by the Director of the Railway submitting particulars of the proposed rates for the carriage of agricultural produce by the Railway.

2. I am to ask that you will be so good as to have the schedule of rates, etc., returned to this office.—(Sgd.) G. M. WORTLEY, *Acting Asst. Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary Jamaica Agricultural Society.

MINUTE BY DIRECTOR OF RAILWAY.

The Honble. the Colonial Secretary.—I submit herewith particulars of the proposed rates for the carriage of agricultural products.

With reference to the rates for the carriage of oranges, I beg to make the following remarks :

In 1895 the receipts for the carriage of oranges amounted to about £14,000, as compared with about £5,000 a year now ; 80 per cent. of the total being shipped in the months of September, October and November.

In 1895, the charge per barrel for carriage from Williamsfield to Kingston was 17·45d. in large lots and 21·00d. in small lots, all the year round. The rates now in force are : from 1st September to 30th November, 16·8d. in large lots and 21·00d. in small lots, and from 1st December to 30th August, 12·6d. in large lots and 15·75d. in small lots. In small lots the charge per box is half the barrel rate, and in large lots about 10 per cent. less.

In 1890, before the extensions were made, the charge from Porus to Kingston per barrel was 2/2½ (now about 50 per cent. less) for any quantity, and the estimate that the extensions would pay was based on the freight rates then being charged for a level and easily-worked Railway. From the important banana districts the rates for the carriage of bananas are about the same per ton per mile as the orange rates from the Stations in Manchester. The banana business gives employment to the Railway throughout the year, while the orange business is practically confined to three months in the year.

Oranges require to be protected from the rain and more care than bananas and the business is very uncertain, the busy season having to pay for idle rolling stock for the rest of the year. In case of damage to fruit, oranges are valued at twice as much as bananas per car load.

It is the opinion of men with a knowledge of the fruit business, that a general reduction of the rates for the carriage of oranges, would practically result in giving a subsidy at the expense of the taxpayer to large shippers of fruit, and that it would not affect the quantity of oranges shipped.

I understand that a barrel of oranges costs about 17/6 landed in the United States, and a box of oranges 8/- landed in England, so that our charges for carriage are only a small part of the total cost.—(Intd.) J. R. 29/12/1909.

PROPOSED RATES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

I have prepared and beg to submit a statement showing the present and also the proposed rates for the conveyance of the different descriptions of agricultural products from Old Harbour, May Pen, Porus, Balaclava and Richmond to Kingston, and which I trust will give all the particulars required by the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

It will be seen that in nearly every instance the proposed rates are less than those at present in force.

The proposed rates from Old Harbour to Kingston have in some instances been slightly increased. and this has been found necessary for the following reasons :—In endeavouring to overcome the competition by drays from Old Harbour to Kingston, a very low rate of 8/- per ton was made. and it was possible for produce to be shipped from Stations beyond Old Harbour to Old Harbour at the ordinary rate and then re-shipped from Old Harbour to Kingston at the special rate of 8/- per ton, for less than if the shipment went through to Kingston at the ordinary rate.

By slightly increasing the rates from Old Harbour, and reducing the rates from the other Stations, this has been rectified.

As regards the rates for the conveyance of oranges and bananas, it is not proposed to make any alteration in the present rates.

The rates for conveyance of oranges from say Williamsfield to Kingston, per 30ft. car load are : From 1st September to 30th November, £13 17s. 2d.=19/7 per ton=1/4·8 per barrel=4/4 per ton mile.

From 1st December to 31st August, £10 8s.=14/8 per ton=1/0·6 per barrel=3/3 per ton mile

The rate for a 30ft. car load of bananas from Williamsfield to Kingston is :—£6 15s. = 11/3 per ton = 2·54d. per ton mile.

Very few bananas are shipped by rail from Manchester, and the rate was made exceptionally low to encourage the cultivation. In 1899 the banana rate from Williamsfield to Kingston was :—£10 1s. =16/9 per ton = 3·79d. per ton mile.

From important banana Stations the rates per ton mile for bananas, are nearly the same as for oranges from Manchester. For instance, bananas from Highgate to Kingston, 38 miles, the rate for a 30ft. car is £7 10s. = 3·94 pence per ton mile.

Oranges require to be protected from rain and more care generally than bananas, the orange business is uncertain, the busy season having to pay for the idle rolling stock for the rest of the year.

Prior to the extension of the Railway, the rate for conveyance of oranges from Porus to Kingston, 46¾ miles (and nearly all level line), was 2/2½ per barrel = 8·4 pence per ton mile.

The rates from Williamsfield to Kingston in car loads, are at present 1/4·8 per barrel = 4·4 pence per ton mile for three months in the year, September, October and November, and for the rest of the year 1/0·6 per barrel = 3·3d. per ton mile.

Reductions have also been made for conveyance of material for packing oranges. Formerly the rate from Kingston to Williamsfield was £18 per car load—at present the rate is £10 per car load, averaging about 2½d. per barrel.

I doubt if any increase in the shipments of oranges would result from any lowering of the Railway rates, while it would, I think, diminish the Railway receipts.

MEMO. ON PROPOSED RAILWAY FREIGHTS BY MR. R. CRAIG.

Although not a member of the Staple and Minor Products Committee, the Secretary has sent the papers to me for remarks—presumably be-

cause I asked at the Board to see the proposed new Railway rates on produce before these were enforced.

On reference to the schedule of proposed rates, I notice the following for bananas :—

Old Harbour to Kingston	22¾ miles	20/-	per 100 stems
May Pen ,, ,,	32½ ,,	23/-	,, ,, ,,
Porus ,, ,,	46¾ ,,	24/-	,, ,, ,,

So that, while an additional charge of 3/- per 100 is made for 10 miles between Old Harbour and Kingston, only 1/- per 100 additional is charged for the 14 miles between May Pen and Porus ! This seems anomalous.

Oranges—an additional charge of 25 per cent. is made from 1st September to 30th November, practically the only season when oranges can now be exported with any hope of profit. To me this seems an entirely mistaken policy, and the reasons advanced for this increase in the rate are to my mind, reasons why no extra charge should be made.

The orange traffic has fallen off to about one-third of what it was some years ago, and I think there is little doubt that this extra charge is partly the cause of that decline. The margin on oranges, is now, usually so very small, that even 3d. per barrel may make business prohibitive. I know that oranges are packed in Manchester with the expectation of a margin of 3d. to the putter-up.

The Government Railway policy should be, in my view, to carry oranges, or anything else that gives employment and leaves money in the Island, at the lowest possible charge for conveyance, to secure these two things, which, indirectly, pay the Government, although it may not give more than the cost of haulage to the Railway. To increase traffic, and at the same time production, (on the same principle that a merchant increases his sales by selling at a small margin of profit) the Railway should be worked on a commercial basis, not on hard and fast lines. I am aware that, in some respects, it is difficult for the Government to do this, but when a Government engages in business of any sort, it ought, so far as that is possible, to be worked on business lines, and that means, in this case, allowing very considerable latitude to its manager in the matter of rates or of special rates.

I am strongly of opinion that in regard to oranges the additional charge should be abolished and the usual rates considerably reduced, to give every encouragement to shippers and to prevent the extinction of the trade.

I do not agree with the remarks of Mr. Richmond in this connection, and certainly not in the extraordinary views he takes of subsidising shippers at the expense of taxpayers—nor—that lower rates would not affect the quantity shipped. This is contrary to all business experience—here and elsewhere.

I am firmly persuaded that to get traffic, and to take it off the roads, a judicious lowering of the rates, wherever competition by road is successful, should be made. The apparently prevailing idea that nothing should be carried unless an immediate and absolute profit is seen on every item conveyed, is not a principle which guides successful commerce, or should guide Railway management.—R. Craig, 26/2/'10.

Memo. by Mr. Martin on the Proposed Railway Freights.

I notice the proposed rate on arrowroot is an increase on the present rate. Should growers in the country not be encouraged to produce this article to supply the Kingston market and so be better able to compete with imported arrowroot ? It is also proposed to increase the rate on ground provisions from Porus to Kingston and Richmond to Kingston—as large quantities of provisions could be grown in Manchester to supply the Kingston market, is this a wise policy ? The same applies to corn, farine and starch. It is apparently the policy of the Railway to kill out the production of native products instead of encouraging the growth of them. I also notice an enormous increase on sarsaparilla from all stations. On

honey the only station for which there is a reduction is May Pen, why is this? Pimento has also been increased for the stations that produce the most pimento. Why should firewood that requires little or no protection be carried at almost the same rate as farine and starch? Why should there be a difference in freight on corn and pease? From several stations sugar cane has to pay the same rate as cassava, ground provisions, etc. Can't canes be carried in an open van? Why make any difference in freight rates between coffee and beeswax—are both these not generally shipped in barrels, and both require the same protection?—A. C. L. MARTIN.—1/2/'10

REVISION OF RAILWAY FREIGHTS—MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY.

On the whole, the rates between Old Harbour and Kingston have been slightly increased, as the present rates were made specially to compete with dray traffic. The rates between May Pen and Kingston also show on the whole, a slight reduction. The rates, however, beyond Porus, while showing a slight decrease on most products for car load rates, have been increased per ton for quantities less than the minimum to secure the car load rates. At the same time this minimum has been increased in nearly all cases (with some exceptions) all along the line from three to four tons; beyond Balaclava the minimum is in nearly all cases the same. The rates on the following articles have been increased from the stations beyond Porus, and I wish to point out that it is from these stations most of the trade in these products is done:—

1. *Arrowroot*—For quantities under four tons up to Balaclava and from Balaclava and beyond under eight tons, the rates show an increase.

2. *Cassava, Ground Provisions and Vegetables.*—The minimum of one ton has been increased to four tons all along to Balaclava, and from Balaclava and beyond the minimum of one ton has been increased to eight tons to secure the minimum for a car load rate. The rates have been increased from Porus and beyond.

3. *Corn.*—The rate has been increased from Porus on to Montego Bay for quantities under one ton, and from Balaclava on the rate has been also increased for any quantities under eight tons.

4. *Farine and Starch.*—From Porus and onwards the rate has been increased.

5. *Rum and Sugar.*—The rate has also been increased from stations beyond Porus, from Porus the rate remains the same.

6. *Honey.*—The rate has also been increased from Porus and beyond.

7. *Pimento.*—This rate has also been increased from Porus and beyond.

8. *Sarsaparilla.*—The rate on this has been increased almost 100 per cent. from every station along the line.

9. *Cotton and Cotton Seed.*—The rate on this product is also increased from Porus and beyond.

These increases also apply from Richmond to Kingston, from which station there appears to be a substantial increase of rates for quantities less than eight tons.

I desire to draw the attention of the Board to the fact that nearly all the increases are on industries that ought to be fostered. I repeat, the increases are largest from those stations which trade in the articles,—the decreases seem to be from stations that do not ship the articles to any extent. We will take the case of arrowroot,—there is a decrease from May Pen to Kingston, beyond May Pen increases; but no trade is likely to be done in this article between May Pen and Kingston, but there is a growing trade from Westmoreland. Now it seems strange that just as a little trade has been worked up in native arrowroot, the rate should be increased and the car load minimum put up to eight tons so that the decrease in the car load rate is of no advantage whatever. It would take

about eighty barrels of arrowroot to get the car load rate. I am particularly interested in this because I am handling nearly all the arrowroot sent out from the largest arrowroot-growing district—Lambs river in Westmoreland, and I have taken great trouble in fostering the industry and finding an outlet for it in the Island. Most of the crop is sent to Kingston.

The parish of Manchester is the parish likely to send most ground provisions and vegetables to Kingston, so of course, the rate has been increased from Porus and beyond, while the minimum to secure a car load rate, formerly one ton, has been put up to four tons, and from some stations eight tons.

Why should the rate on native corn be increased just at this juncture? Why should the opportunity be taken to increase the rate on farine and starch just at this moment when we are trying to establish a cassava starch industry? Why should the rate on honey be increased,—a growing and important industry? The policy of the Railway seems to be to fix on all these articles that we are especially trying to foster, and increase the rate of freight, and it is not encouraging for producers to find that when to some extent, through the Agricultural Society's efforts, they produce an article of produce in quantity, immediately the Railway rates are increased.

Irish potatoes I presume, will come under Ground Provisions;—the freight from Halifax to Kingston is the same as the Railway rate from Greenvale to Kingston. Why should this rate be increased?

The case of sarsaparilla seems also strange. It is only during these last few years that this product has been grown to some extent. The great increase in rates requires explanation. The rate on kola nuts has been reduced right through on the Montego Bay line (where little is grown or likely to be grown).—JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.—15/3/'10.

The Secretary was directed to send the comments of the members of the Committee and his memorandum to the Governor and inform him of the appointment of the Committee.

(b) Importation of Bees. The Secretary submitted a letter from the Expert of the Department of Agriculture, U.S.A., in reply to his letter asking for information recommending legislation to govern importation of bees as proposed, to safeguard the Colony against the introduction of foul brood.

It was resolved to supplement the resolution already sent forward to the Government, and ask that honey be included in the prohibition.

The Secretary was also directed to add that legislation might be provided to meet circumstances that might arise to make it necessary to stamp out disease amongst bees, such as Foul Brood.

(c) Pound Laws. The Secretary submitted the replies from the various Parochial Boards giving their opinions on the present Pound Laws and their suggestions for revisions.

The Secretary was instructed to circulate these papers for the comments of the Live Stock Committee.

(d) Distribution of Seeds and Plants. The Secretary submitted a report by Mr. Briscoe, the Agricultural Instructor, on the distribution of seeds and plants on the Port Royal Mountains and districts, which had suffered from the November floods together with a statement of account and list of persons to whom relief in this di-

rection had been given. He was directed to send on the report and statement to the Government.

(e) **Exhibitions.** The Secretary submitted the report of the Exhibitions Committee regarding the proposed Exhibition at Toronto; under the circumstances explained by the Secretary, the Committee did not recommend that the Society should take part in the Exhibition this year. He was instructed to advise the Government accordingly.

A letter from Mr. Aspinall, Secretary of the West India Committee was submitted, advising that there was to be a Pageant held at the Crystal Palace in the autumn, and asking if pictures from this Colony could be supplied.

The Secretary was instructed to forward this to the Government, as the Society could not give help in the direction proposed.

The following letters from the C.S.O. were submitted :—

(a) *Re* Steam Road Rollers :

No. 1799/1631. Colonial Secretary's Office, Jamaica, 22nd February, 1910.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 6213, dated the 3rd instant, forwarding a resolution passed at a meeting of the members of the Jamaica Agricultural Society on the 20th ultimo, pointing out the necessity for additional steam rollers.

2. In reply I am to say that the Government have already in use two steam rollers for traction and rolling and have on order three more, which are expected to be delivered shortly. Should these further results in working prove satisfactory, the number will probably be augmented as money becomes available.—(Sgd.) ROBT. JOHNSTONE, Asst. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Jamaica Agricultural Society.

(b) *Re* Praedial Larceny :

No. 1606/773. C.S.O., Jamaica, 17th February, 1910.

Sir.—I am directed by the Governor to transmit herewith—for publication in the JOURNAL of the Society, an extract from a report from the Inspector of Police for St. Catherine, on the well-being of the Colony during the December quarter 1909, in which he expresses the opinion that the decrease in the number of cases of praedial larceny during the quarter was due to a great extent to more co-operation among the small cultivators in protecting themselves from habitual praedial thieves.—(Sgd.) P. C. CORK, Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Jamaica Agricultural Society.

It was the opinion of the Board that the three months' probation was too short for the Inspector to form a reliable opinion and he was instructed to inform the Government accordingly, and state that the Board would be glad to hear what the Inspector had to remark on the subject in his next report. The Board thought the extract from the report should not be published meantime.

(c) *Re* Special Trains and Shows :

No. 2081/1630. C.S.O.. Jamaica, 1st March, 1910.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 6212, of the 3rd of January, transmitting a copy of a resolution passed by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, asking the Govern-

ment to give all facilities possible for the furtherance of train services in connection with all Agricultural Shows.

2. In reply I am to transmit for the information of the Society, a copy of a memorandum from the Director of the Jamaica Government Railway, and to observe that His Excellency thinks it possible that the facilities afforded by the Railway are not generally understood.—(Sgd.) ROBT. JOHNSTONE, Asst. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Jamaica Agricultural Society.

The Honble. the Colonial Secretary.

I beg to submit a copy of our Regulations showing concessions to Agricultural and other Shows.

These concessions are practically the same as are allowed on :—

The Western Australian Government Railways
.. New Zealand Government Railways
.. Victoria Railways
.. South Australian Railways
.. Natal Government Railway
.. Cape Government Railway
.. South African Government Railways

The regulations for Shows have been published in the local newspapers repeatedly, but I fear they are not read by the public, as from the letter received from Mr. Ventresse regarding the Montpelier Show, he asked for some of the same concessions as are allowed by the regulations.

As regards the running of special trains. Our regulations require a guarantee of sixty first-class fares or one hundred and twenty thirds (minimum £10) for a single journey, or minimum £[illegible] for a return journey made same day, and this charge compares favourably with the charges on other railways; but when special trains are run in connection with Agricultural or other Shows and when experience has shown that the earnings would be sufficient to warrant the Railway taking the risk, the required guarantee is either waived entirely, or the amount fixed at a nominal figure.

It would not, I submit, be prudent to have any fixed rule in this case, as the prospects of any proposed Show are always enquired into before fixing the amount of the required guarantee.

In the case of the proposed Show at Montpelier, the Railway will be put to considerable expense in running the special trains asked for and the guarantee has been fixed at half the amount required by our regulations for special trains, as the trains run for the previous Show in 1905 did fairly well. I attach a copy of my letter to Mr. Ventresse, dated 27th January, 1910.

I wrote fully to you on this subject on 1/9/'09, in reply to a complaint sent to you by the St. Thomas in the Vale Agricultural Society on 18th August, 1909, C.S.O. No. 10545.

I think it will be seen that the Railway has always given "all the facilities possible for the furtherance of train services in connection with all Agricultural Shows."—(Intd.) J. R.—19/2/'10

The Secretary submitted a memorandum on the subject as follows :—

THE RAILWAY AND SHOWS.

With regard to the minute of the Director of the Railway, we are not objecting to the concessions as printed,—they are reasonable. Our objection is to the grudging manner in which special trains are granted. They have to be begged for and are only usually given after much corres-

pondence and explanation and pressing. If we take the particular instances of Montpelier and Bog Walk Shows quoted, we find that something over £100 was asked for running a special train from Clarendon Park to Montpelier and back, as pointed out by Mr. Ventresse at the Half-yearly General Meeting, in spite of the fact that at the previous Show in 1905, the trains paid very well and then only a guarantee of some £15 was required. As regards the Show at Bog Walk last year, the Show Committee were called upon to deposit £21 and they only got £7 back, so that they had to make up £14 on the special train. Now I, with others responsible saw that special train leave Bog Walk for Albany in the evening, with the people packed like herrings in a box, some sitting up on the back of the seats, some holding on to the platform, and some even standing on the steps, yet the Show Committee were called upon to pay a deficit of £14. Now either of two things must have happened; either there were not enough carriages provided to make the train pay (seeing that it was overcrowded) or the fares were not collected. If the regulations as stated, require a guarantee of sixty first-class fares or one hundred and twenty thirds (minimum £10) for a single journey or minimum £15 for a return journey made the same day, and these are adhered to, and if special trains are granted readily where there is reasonable prospect of their paying, no one. I am sure, will complain.—JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.

He was instructed to explain these points to the Government in replying.

Resolutions from Branches. (a) The following resolution from Fair Prospect Branch *re* Woodpeckers was submitted—

"In view of the very great loss incurred through the destruction of cocoa pods by Woodpeckers, be it resolved that this Society respectfully approach the Government through the parent Society, to take Woodpeckers off the list of protected birds."

The Secretary was instructed to reply that the Branch would require to furnish very much more information on the subject before such a serious step as recommending alteration in the Laws for the Protection of Birds, could be entertained, and to suggest that the Branch furnish reliable evidence that woodpeckers were depredators in the direction named. He was also instructed to ask in the JOURNAL for information in this respect.

(b) Christiana Branch *re* Kendal Station.

At a special meeting of this Branch, held on 4th March, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That the Secretary of the parent Society be requested to ascertain from the proper authorities, the reason why there has been such a long delay in the re-building of the Kendal Railway Station, seeing that that station serves four parishes, and is thereby causing great inconvenience, there being an additional distance of four and a half miles each way, for persons sending and receiving freight."—W. C. LESLIE, Secretary.

The Secretary was directed to write the Government pointing out that this Station was the outlet for the large and fertile black soil districts, which could provide increasing freight,—every produce that the red soils could, with ginger and bananas in addition, and that it would be a great mistake at this stage of the development of the country and of agricultural propaganda, not to rebuild Kendal Station as soon as possible.

Praedial Larceny. Mr. H. T. Ronaldson of Milk River, wrote asking that Edward Blackwood, Sedge Pond, Race Course P.O., John Howard, Banks, Race Course P.O., and Edward Barrett, Cherry Hill, Milk River P.O., be appointed under the revised Praedial Larceny Law of 1909, as Special Constables.

The Board instructed the Secretary to forward these names to the Inspector General.

Rubber. The following letter from the Hon. Dr. Pringle *re* rubber was submitted :

Cape Clear, Clonmel P.O., February 28th, 1910.

I fear I cannot attend next meeting of the Board of Management, I however, send you an article on Rubber in the West India Committee Circular which, no doubt, you may have seen.

While it is undesirable to plant kinds of rubber that cannot be grown at a profit, I would like a discussion on the lines raised in the article I enclose. The general question of growing or not being able to grow rubber in a country, is most important, and if a clear, practical statement can be made in the affirmative, it would make for the progress of Jamaica.—JOHN PRINGLE.

It was resolved that the Secretary should place the subject of rubber on the agenda for the next meeting for a special discussion on the subject, and to make it known that the meeting would be open to others interested in rubber for this purpose.

Prize Holdings. The reports of the Prize Holdings Competition for Trelawny and St. Catherine were submitted.

The Secretary was instructed to publish the reports in the JOURNAL and pay the prizes awarded.

Mr. A. P. Hanson, Secretary of the St. Faith's Branch, who was awarded first prize in the second class, was declared to be ineligible according to the rules, as there was no house on his land, the house he lived in adjoining being on Church property, although he had repaired the house at his own expense. No exceptions to the rules could be entertained, as this would result in many exceptions being brought forward for consideration.

The Secretary said that the judging for Portland was not yet finished, but it should come in this financial year. It was resolved to accept the Judges' report and awards if the Secretary considered these in order, and confirm at the next meeting.

Goats. A letter from the Black River district was submitted advocating the pounding of goats instead of destroying them. The Board could not, however, recommend any change in the laws in this respect.

Shows. Applications for Grants to Shows were made from the (1) St. George's Branch at Buff Bay and the (2) St. Ann's Branch at Thicketts, both on the 1st August, and the usual grants were made subject to the rules governing Shows being followed.

Stallion "Sir Gerald." Applications for the Stallion "Sir Gerald" for 1911, were made (1) by the St. George's Branch at Buff Bay, and (2) by Mr. Hirst, Agricultural Instructor, Mocho. Both were held over till nearer the season.

Leave of Absence. Application from the Secretary for leave of absence from July was submitted, and the leave granted if proper arrangements could be made for carrying on the work in his absence.

Instructors' Reports. The Instructors' Reports and Itineraries were submitted, and directed to be submitted in the usual course, to the Instructors' Committee.

New Member. The following new member was elected :—Henry S. King, 60 Cornhill, London, England.

The meeting adjourned till Thursday, 21st April, at 11.40.

BEE KEEPING.

At the request of a good many correspondents we have arranged with a very competent and successful bee-keeper—one of the largest in the Island, to write some notes on bee-keeping for us—seasonable notes. The present notes are written on a subject that is of much interest to bee-keepers at the present moment, viz.: the swarming problem.—Ed.

The problem before all bee-keepers this month is how to pervent swarming. Taking for granted, that after your first extraction you went into every brood next and removed all solid frames of honey, giving in exchange brood combs in the centre, by this time the queens will have frames of sealed brood from top bar to bottom, (*i.e.*, if you have good queens, and none but the very best should be tolerated in the apiary), go to every hive in the apiary and remove two frames of the sealed brood, substituting two frames of foundation ; see that you leave the queen in the brood nest. You can either make increase with this brood, or if you do not wish to increase, put in a super on top, the brood will hatch out and increase your field force, and if there is any honey about you will get it. I worked 500 colonies on this plan last season with less than 50 per cent. of swarming, and what swarming I had was due to queens getting killed in taking out brood. I am of opinion that this is the best time to make your increase ; have queen cells ready to give nuclei two days after making and these will gather enough stores to carry them over without a lot of bother in feeding. I made the mistake of leaving my increase too late last season, and in consequence lost some and had a lot of feeding to do to keep others from deserting.

Now is the best time to rear your young queens before the swarming fever sets in, with a nice honey flow as now you see the queen cells overflowing with royal jelly, and from such cells only first-class queens can hatch.

Do not use swarming cells as this tends to perpetuate swarming, re-queen every year, and if you give the queens room in the brood

next as outlined in the beginning of this article, you will be very little troubled with that bug-bear and nuisance to the bee-keeper,— swarming.—F. H. BUTCHER.

Canoe Valley, Chapelton P.O.

A NEW CORN FROM CHINA.

A SMALL lot of shelled corn, of a kind that is new to this country, (U.S.A.) was sent to the United States Department of Agriculture from Shanghai, China, in 1908, and tested the same season. It proved to have qualities that may make it valuable in breeding a corn adapted to the hot and dry conditions of the Southwest. The plants grown in the test averaged less than six inches in height, with an average of twelve green leaves at the time of tasseling. The ears averaged five and a quarter inches in length and four and one-third inches in greatest circumference, with sixteen to eighteen rows of small grains. On the upper part of the plant the leaves are all on one side of the stalk, instead of being arranged in two rows on opposite sides. Besides this, the upper leaves stand erect, instead of drooping, and the tips of the leaves are therefore above the top of the tassel. The silks of the ear are produced at the point where the leaf blade is joined to the leaf sheath, and they appear before there is any sign of an ear except a slight swelling.

This corn is very different from any that is now produced in America. Its peculiar value is that the erect arrangement of the leaves on one side of the stalk and the appearance of the silks in the angle where the leaf blade joins the sheath, offer a protected place in which pollen can settle and fertilise the silks before the latter are ever exposed to the air. This is an excellent arrangement for preventing the drying out of the silks before pollination. While this corn may be of little value itself, it is likely that by cross-breeding, these desirable qualities can be imparted to a larger corn, which will thus be better adapted to the Southwest.

The discovery of this peculiar corn in China suggests anew the idea that, although America is the original home of corn, yet it may by some means have been taken to the Eastern Hemisphere long before the discovery of America by Columbus. From descriptions in Chinese literature corn is known to have been established in China within less than a century after the voyage of Columbus. But this seems a short time for any plant to have become widely known and used. Besides, this particular corn is so different from anything in the New World, that it must have been developed in the Old World, and for that to happen in a natural way would take a very long time. These ideas are brought out in Bulletin 161 of the Bureau of Plant Industry, which gives also an account of some cross-breeding experiments with the new corn and the changes which crossing produces in the grains the same season.

ORANGE INDUSTRY.

We found in a late number of the *Porto Rico Horticultural News*, an article on the fruit problem, which advocates fruit growers there taking steps to organise in a similar manner to what has been done in California, was done once in Florida and is to be done there again, and even in Cuba where there is a Market Growers' Association, which while not organised on the comprehensive lines of the California scheme, is an advance on our casual way of shipping. In Porto Rico they are in advance of us in Jamaica, because they have an Association which has done some good work all along the lines of its organisation. It initiated a system of inspection of fruit and this has encouraged better packing; it has secured improvement in transportation methods, has created a cohesiveness of the smaller planters which was lacking and which may be instrumental of much good. We in Jamaica are lacking in these things. The only organisation of planters (other than the various local Sugar Planters' Associations) is the Agricultural Society and its Branches, but it can only deal with the orange industry in a general way; it cannot specialise on one industry.

In Porto Rico they now propose to employ a capable man to be paid a salary by the Association, and to do nothing but represent them and their interests. He would have an office and storehouse in New York and connections in interior points. He would be advised by cable of the amount and kind of fruit shipped, and before the arrival of the steamer carrying it, should be able to distribute it in the most desirable way and to the best interests of the members of the Association. This is after the lines that were proposed in the way of a Commercial Agent in England whose exclusive business would be to attend to Jamaica's commercial interests. We have all along, however, realised that pushing the Island's business abroad is not of much use without organisation here and a system of thoroughness in our operations.

COTTON.

We have received letters about the Caravonica cotton seed we sent out last year. This variety is not free from the troubles that Sea Island Cotton is subject to, but it does not take these troubles so badly. It has done very well in parts of Cuba, giving a large yield. It is easier to start, and grows to a much larger tree than Sea Island Cotton, and the yield is usually so large that this makes up for the smaller price received. The silk variety is probably the best for our circumstances. The growing of Caravonica cotton in German East Africa has been so encouraging that large German cotton-spinning firms are now putting in many acres of this cotton. The German Imperial Parliament votes annually increasing sums towards extending the cotton cultivation in German Colonies. The Commonwealth of Australia offers a bounty of 10 per cent. on the

value of cotton and the cotton seed produced with white labour within the Commonwealth. To make cotton pay in Australia with white labour, it is said, would require ten times more population than Australia now has. The seed is now in much demand, but the price is still high—10/- per pound, so that it might have paid somebody here to grow for seed, as we remarked in a previous JOURNAL.

A WATER ELEVATOR.

WE have read particulars of an interesting new invention consisting of an apparatus for raising water or other fluids to any desired height without the aid of any motive power other than that developed by the fluids flowing through the apparatus. It works automatically and continuously without any attention so long as it is supplied with water or other fluids. It is altogether different from a ram and deals with large volumes of fluids.

The power operating this apparatus is compressed air, which is obtained by water flowing over an aerator, and carrying air in bubbles down a pipe to a closed cylinder which is situated at a distance below the source equal to the distance to which the water is required to be raised above the source.

The water on arriving in the cylinder gives up the air which is compressed in the cylinder by the weight of the falling water and the weight of the water as it returns up another pipe to within four feet of the source.

The compressed air is conveyed in another pipe to one of two displacement cylinders which is filled with water, or the fluid required to be raised, and discharges the contents to the height desired.

Whilst this displacement cylinder is being discharged, the other one alongside it is being filled, and as soon as the first one is emptied a valve controlling the compressed air is automatically changed over to the other displacement cylinder which has been filled, and its contents emptied whilst the first displacement cylinder is being refilled; the filling and emptying goes on continuously.

These displacement cylinders can be fed from the same source as the power water or from another source. Thus where water is available it can be used to raise sewage, sludge, oil or other fluids; sea water can be used to raise fresh water.

The displacement cylinders can also be used with a steam plant for raising sewage, sludge, etc., as well as raising water.

The only moving parts of this apparatus are metal valves, there being no leather or rubber to wear or get out of order.

Where water is abundant, such as in a river or the sea, immense quantities of water can be raised and the same effect produced as is obtained at the Niagara Falls and other falls for power purposes.

The capital outlay in erecting this apparatus is considerably less than the present system of steam power, there being no enginehouse, engines and boilers to provide, and the working expenses are

merely nominal—there being no fuel required, nor engine drivers or stokers. One man can easily superintend a very large installation.

The elevator can be used for the following purposes, viz. :— For irrigation, at a comparatively small capital outlay, and when erected and set to work will continue with slight supervision. For draining purposes, in raising sewage to different levels, in place of the large pumps now in use with the attendant engines, boilers, etc. For unwatering mines when a head of water is obtainable. For conveying oil in pipe lines, by raising it to a higher level and then following by gravitation. For purposes of power in conjunction with a turbine where stationary engines are now used, doing away with engines, engine-houses, boilers, coal, oil, engine-drivers, stokers, etc. By water works for raising water to different levels instead of the present costly pumps with the necessary engines, boilers, etc. By the use of this apparatus water works companies are in a position with the enormous supply of water at their command, to utilise the water for supplying power and electricity and afterwards return the water into the reservoir to be used for its present purposes.

HORSE BREEDING.

In the breeding of animals we would divide the breeders, that is, those who raise them, into four classes :—(1) the man of means who does it as a hobby, whose principal object is not so much to make it pay as to produce good animals which may, in the case of horses, either be thorough-breds for racing purposes, Hackneys for carriage purposes,—Clydesdales or Suffolks for draught purposes, or Ponies of various breeds. (2) There is the ordinary farmer who breeds solely for the profit,—if he has also a natural interest in the stock he breeds, it is all the better for him. (3) There is the better class of farmer, usually called the "Gentleman Farmer," who breeds this particular kind of stock because he is "built that way," he loves his work as a hobby but he must also make it pay. (4) Then there is the casual breeder, who raises a few head of stock anyhow on the chance of their paying, and he usually manages to scrape through with a margin, or if not gets "broke" ultimately. There are scores and hundreds of breeders of the first three kinds in Great Britain of all kinds of stock—horses, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, dogs, even birds. In Jamaica we have not these same classes. There are a few gentlemen who breed race horses and race them because that is their hobby,—they are good sportsmen—they do not expect to make it pay ; they have means, and it is well they should have as it is an expensive hobby. There may be one or two who make racing pay here ; these gentlemen may or may not race their own horses, if they race their own horses all the more credit to them. There are also breeders who raise thorough-bred horses to sell—they do not race them as a rule.

We have always contended that the raising of carriage horses as distinct from horses for racing purposes, or even polo ponies, is

a separate business. It is so in the United Kingdom. Thoroughbreds are indispensable for the greatest outdoor exercise of well-to-do men—fox-hunting. We do not need cross country horses here, we have no use for them. We have as little use for the high-stepping hackney of the towns and parks of wealthy countries. What we have need of here is the utility horse such as so many farmers in the *United Kingdom* use, *only they may use a heavier horse than* we require. All men who have to travel some distance in their traps, carriages, or buggies, or whatever their conveyance may be called, require a stout-built animal, such as is used by farmers, doctors, veterinary surgeons, ministers, and all whose vocations in the United Kingdom oblige them to use a conveyance. We contend that we have not been producing that type here and that there is a very good opening indeed for someone to stick to that type of horse—the economical horse. We like racing well, but it does not blind us to the fact that the purposes of the majority of people in this country are not best served, are not economically served, by the use of the present thoroughbred horse or pony as bred here now. The spirit of sport is all very well, but to sacrifice utility for a fancy pony is not legitimate when a man is poor and cannot really afford anything but the animal that will best serve his business purposes.

We have often been amused, and our amusement mixed with other thoughts, when we have heard almost the first remark of men in the country parts, especially of men in the horse-breeding parishes—but even in Kingston, regarding a horse to be : "Can he gallop?" We have often replied "No, we are thankful he cannot, but he can trot, and his limbs are sound, and he does not brush." It is most remarkable to note the large number of horses that brush, and this is, we think, caused from the fact that they are bred as gallopers, and all faults have been overlooked so long as they can gallop and take a share in racing for a year or two, whether it may be on Kingston track, or on country tracks, or even in picnic matches. We have, however, seen a good many thoroughbreds or nearly thoroughbreds, in the country parts of the old type, which, if well selected and mated with judgment, with no thought of any track record but simply for conformation, soundness and trotting pace, would form a good nucleus for producing a good carriage type of horse or pony.

It will be admitted that Mr. A. C. L. Martin, Great Valley, Cross Keys, has proved himself a good breeder of thoroughbred horses. He is in a good location, but not the best; he has used judgment and shrewdness to a remarkable degree, and has usually been very successful in selling his animals at a good price. He has not raced many, indeed, only when he could not get his price, but has confined himself to the breeding side of the business. Not only has he bred the finest thoroughbred horses, but he has produced fine carriage horses. He tried the experiment of mating ordinary good pony mares to the Society's pony stallion "Sir Gerald," and we have asked for his experience from the test of time. This stallion has gone back to the same district—Pepper, St. Elizabeth,

where Mr. Martin sent his mares eight years ago, and he is so satisfied with his experience that he is sending mares to "Sir Gerald" again this year. He says: "I sent four *14-hand mares* of my own to "Sir Gerald" when he was standing for service at Pepper in 1902. I was laughed at by several breeders for doing this, and asked what size progeny I expected to get. I succeeded in getting two bay filly foals, one chestnut filly, and one chestnut colt; the last died as a yearling having met with an accident. The other fillies never had a grain of corn or oats till they were broken in at three years old. One of the bay fillies took first prize at Kendal as a foal of 1905 (three years old), and at the same Show in 1906, when four years old, the pair of bays took first prize in the driving competition, and first prize in the ladies' driving (double harness). One of the fillies also came off first in single driving in the open competition, and in the ladies' competition. They were again exhibited at Kendal in 1908, and were not successful—perhaps owing to the prejudice of the judges, both thoroughbred men, to "Sir Gerald," but a good many persons outside the ring who were good judges of driving horses, contended that they should have been awarded first prize in double and single harness. I sold the pair to Mr. Lagarde for £70. I ought to mention that one was bred without my knowing it by a young jack and dropped a mule cub in Mandeville, without her ever being suspected of being in foal. After weaning the foal I put her back to work, and this probably made her look a little coarse at Kendal. These fillies stand just under 14.2, have never been pampered in any way, and went several long journeys with me, travelling at a fast pace and never flinching. Mr. Lagarde, not long after he purchased them, used them in his four-wheel dog cart from Mandeville to Malvern with four grown-up people in the trap, and, if I am not mistaken, returned the same day. They have been pronounced by competent judges to be the most stylish pair of 14.2 ponies in Jamaica. Mr. Legarde, who is a good judge and has had a good deal of experience with horses, says that the same style of horse could be sold to go abroad in quantities if we had them. The chestnut filly referred to was broken to harness and draught and went very nicely, but I have since turned her out to breed to a thoroughbred horse. I will again put several of my pony mares to "Sir Gerald" this season. I think he gets the most useful class of ponies—and I have not found them one bit inferior to the most select ponies in Jamaica."

The same pair took first prize single and double harness at Montpelier Show, and single and double ladies' driving.

THE VALUE OF GOOD ROADS.

Good roads are necessary for the development of any country, not only for marketing products but so that one community may have free social intercourse with other communities. We are not so badly off in Jamaica for roads, and we are right to take pride in

our roads, but we can be much better off by improvements on existing roads and the making of new roads in those localities—and there are some—where produce is as it were gasping to get out. In America it is estimated that it costs more to haul a ton of wheat from farm to market than to ship it from New York to Liverpool. Water freight is always chaper than Railway freight. Thus a barrel of potatoes can be brought as cheaply from Halifax to Kingston as from Greenvale to Kingston. While it costs the American farmer 23 cents to haul a ton over his roads it costs British, Belgian, French and German farmers only from seven to nine cents to make the same haul owing to good roads. There is nothing at all that people are more willing to pay for than roads, and we believe also that there would be little grumbling to pay more for the Railway if that were necessary, but most people believe that if the Railway was worked on more progressive lines, with more facilities offered to attract freight all along the line, much more money would be made. Producers complain that the Railway does not appear to want freight, that while in any other business people push to get business the Railway does not lay itself out to get it. All the money that goes to pay for roads, pay for the Railway, or pay for anything here, must be derived from the everyday occupations of the people, and as has often been said, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred this is agriculture. It is the sale of agricultural produce that furnishes the financial necessities of the Island, so agriculture should be fostered above all things, but not of course, to the neglect of other things necessary to our welfare.

HOW TO HANDLE A HORSE.

THE following suggestive little essay by a Prize Winner in one of the English S.P.C.A. Competitions, is full of valuable and useful advice. It should be read with interest and profit :—

The horse being the most serviceable and intelligent of domestic animals, besides any money value that may be attached, deserves our every attention and care; when this is given, not only do we get the best out of our dumb friends, but we earn and get that understanding and affection, which makes work a pleasure both for the horse and the man.

As the horse is used for so many different purposes, with which I dare say most of us are acquainted, I can only say—put the right horse in the right place, treat him according to his breed and work, and he will not disappoint his most sanguine upholder. Needless to say, I am writing of those horses which have been properly broken to the particular work for which they are intended, and not of those which have been brought to work anyhow, and by teasing boys and silly grooms turned from quiet if spirited animals to vicious brutes.

To handle a horse in the right way requires a good deal of understanding, and I may say from what I have seen, that, like poets,

good horsemen are born not made, still for the ordinary mortal, I think the best advice I can give is—learn to understand the particular likes and dislikes of the animal with which you have to deal, respect them and your horse will respect you.

I believe all vice in horses is caused by ill-treatment, or through bad handling.

The man must be master, and the horse must know it.

You cannot cure a thoroughly vicious animal, but firmness and kindness will certainly not aggravate the evil, whereas, loss of temper and cruelty will certainly not improve it.

Never show fear with a horse, approach him with a word and a pat, do what you have to do, whether feeding, grooming, or any other work, never take liberties with him, such as tickling and playing, it is not necessary and does not raise you in the animal's opinion.

When driving, should he shy, stumble, or be obstinate, don't start using the whip: find out what is the cause. If shying, it may be a defect of the eye, and if so, whipping will not cure it, and he would then have some real cause to be afraid of the object to which he took exception, keep a tight rein, scold him, and touch him with the whip on the opposite side: I think you will find this quite the better way

Summed up in a few words, I may say that,—feed regularly, study the quality, give plenty of time, conscientious grooming, warm but not stuffy stabling, with kindliness, thought, and good temper, the horse will show by his work, how it is best to handle him.

RUBBER TAPPING AND CURING.

We have heard a great deal about the pricking method of tapping rubber, recently very much talked about, in Ceylon, and exhaustive experiments were made by experienced planters in the Island. The results, as far as the production went, especially from young trees, were satisfactory, but the injury done to the bark was so great as to make tapping after renewal most difficult—in other words, the trees would very soon be almost ruined and practically untappable in a comparatively short time. The above refers entirely to Hevea trees, but from what we know, the system would be almost, if not quite, impossible on a Castilloa tree.

After a great deal of experimenting, we believe the old V cuts, carefully made and in well-chosen parts of the tree, are after all, the most satisfactory and give the best results. When not cut too deep no injury is done, and the bark renews smooth and fit to tap again.

The best set of tools we know is the Bowman Northway Set. They consist of a tool for the first cuts, one for shaving the edges of the cuts every other day, as long as the milk flows, and the third is a spin-wheel or pricker used to run on the edge of the cuts in the thickness of the bark to cut into the actual cells; this is done when-

ever the milk is slow to flow, or cannot get away from the bark where cut.

As to the way to cure the latex when it is fresh from the tree, an essential is plenty of clean cold water. The latex should first be carefully strained, or if partially coagulated, rubbed through a small mesh wire sieve or strainer, into pans or dishes; add as much water as latex, and one part of Acetic Acid to one hundred parts of latex and water; stir thoroughly, and allow to stand in a cool dark place. The latex should coagulate in eight to twenty-four hours, and float on the water like a pancake; this pancake, sheet or biscuit should then be rinsed and then lightly rolled until most of the water is out of it; then after a few minutes roll out quite thin with an ordinary wooden rolling pin or a bottle, or better still, an ordinary clothes mangle or wringer, one-eighth of an inch is quite thick enough. Lastly, the drying is most important. The sheets must be kept from touching one another, either when hung on wires or when laid on wire netting. The room, store or shed should be dark and dry, and the drying should be done either by means of charcoal pans, hot or cool air fans, or simply naturally by time. On no account should the rubber be exposed to the sun.

Should the quantity of Acetic Acid mentioned above not be sufficient to bring about coagulation, more should be added. But above all, keep everything clean, and the rubber at all stages cannot be washed too much.

Any that is soft or sticky should at once be removed, and while the latex is being coagulated, bubbles, scum, dirt or anything foreign, should be removed from the pans.—CONTRIBUTOR.

OTHER LANDS.

THE following is written of Hawaii in the Pacific, a place a few degrees further north than Jamaica, and on the whole, having very similar conditions :—

Coming from California where horticulture is at about the highest point of perfection, where nearly every kind of fruit, flower and tree has been tried, where the soils vary to such an extent that at times a hundred acre field is not unlike a checker-board, I have taken some interest in and have made some general observations into the methods of your horticulture since my arrival a few months ago. Your wonderful growth, your perfect climate and apparently rich soil, have made it possible to call this the Paradise of the Pacific. Climate and soil go a long way to produce the magnificent growth which is to be found, but soon there is climate alone left and other agents must come to the front to assist in keeping up the growth and beauty of the surroundings, and I will endeavour to bring out some points on these lines in this paper to-night.

I have been told that a few years ago your orange trees yielded an abundance of fruit and your other trees did better than to-day and I find in looking over the ground, that there is a great lack of hor-

ticultural methods, such as pruning, cultivation and the like. I have seen trees which are almost gone, and the idea that insects alone are the cause of this, must be dispelled : in most cases it is the lack of pruning, cultivation, fertilization and irrigation, which is at the bottom of it all. You see large orange trees almost leafless, trees which once showed great vigour. Many of your old mango and alligator pear trees are not the trees of a few years ago : it is true that the Avocado does not suffer severely from the attack of scale insects, but this is not the entire cause of the lack of vigour, the trees must be fed. Another phase of failure is attributable to too close planting, especially is this true where extra planting has been done after certain trees have grown to good size. These trees had spread their roots in all directions and when the young tree was set out and cared for, and the care given in the first few years is always better, the large tree got more benefit, being directly in line to get the extra care of the little one, through its ever ready root system so well established. Very often the shade of the larger trees prevents replants from becoming strong and vigorous trees. The growth of these is always more or less long and feeble and at times very brittle, the foliage although scanty is generally large, but flowers and fruit are beyond the efforts of the tree.

In talking with some of your older settlers, I am given to understand that pruning, except perhaps a little thinning, and there is a vast difference between pruning and trimming, is almost unknown here. There is perhaps no more interesting and fascinating phase of horticultural work than pruning trees and plants. We cannot remove a single part of a tree or plant without the remaining parts being affected by it. A tree is capable of being shaped and balanced by pruning, and he who prunes will get results, very good results, if pruning is correctly done, if wrongly done we can at times, expect serious loss. Pruning cannot be learned from books, but must be learned by studying the habits and growth of plants. It is comparatively easy for a skilful horticulturist to prune a tree or even a rosebush, so as to secure the desired results. It is a very difficult matter for him to tell others how to prune, and in pruning it is more difficult to formulate fixed principles than in any other branch of agriculture. What makes pruning a difficult task is in the fact that no two trees for example, are just alike and this places pruning in the category of intelligent pursuits rather than in a matter-of-fact rule of thumb motion.

At certain periods of the tree's life, pruning tends to invigorate the plant ; more pruning then, on judicious lines, will do much to help improve the looks of things generally speaking.

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Seed Corn in the United States.—Seed corn of unimpaired vitality may be scarce and difficult to secure next spring. If recent reports from many different sections of the cornbelt were true of large areas, the seed corn situation would be desperate, but happily this is a large country, with thousands of "lucky" spots

in all climatic crises, so that, to adapt the old story, when corn scarce in Canaan, we may go down into Egypt for our supplie. Regions here and there have been hard hit by early freezes an later winter storms, thousands of acres of corn still unhusked dete riorating under snow, but it is certain that a large stock of depend able seed was gathered before the recent severe cold weather an snowstorms occurred. While the total supply probably is not ab normally small, its distribution renders it difficult and expensive fo farmers in many sections to obtain seed. An Illinois subscribe furnishes a case in point. He writes: "Where are farmers to ge seed corn this year? It will be almost impossible to find corn in thi locality that will grow. How are the seed firms fixed for corn?"

In due time seedsmen and corn breeders will offer tested, reliable seed for sale. They have it because they grew it or bought it in sections where the crop reached field maturity under favourable conditions. If they foresee an extraordinary demand, prices doubtless will rule comparatively high, but good seed usually is worth all it costs. We are not convinced, however, that "nearly everybody will have to buy seed corn this year," as a discouraged correspondent writes from Nebraska. Some of us magnify adverse conditions and lose heart where others look for the bright spots and press on to redoubled endeavour. If we are excitable we form quick judgments and exaggerate them in expression. We see a field of corn under snow or handle a waggon-load of frosted ears and forthwith declare that "seed corn is scarce and won't grow." We thus project our local disturbances to the ears and eyes of the world. Opinions hastily formed are often more quickly abandoned. In any case they should be founded on tests and facts instead of fear and fancy. Unless an ear is seriously injured, as indicated by its feel and appearance, no one may say whether or not it will germinate until a test has been made. Corn should be tested for vitality before it is condemned as unfit for seed.

Far be it from us to discredit careful observations or dim an honest, painstaking vision of a clearly-defined serious condition. Admittedly thousands of acres of corn have been damaged to an extent which justifies a widespread fear that seed from the crop may be vitally injured; but we know there is a great abundance of sound, well-bred, reliable seed stored high and dry in attics and houses whose roofs are burdened with the same snow that mantles unhusked fields. Most men who appreciate good seed at its value, selected their stock in the field early in October. Many of them will have seed for sale. Growers who make seed corn production their business, put away large stocks in first-class condition before frosts and winter impaired the germs. On the whole we think the picture, in so far as it attempts to portray the seed corn situation in eight or ten States wherein the bulk of the crop is grown, has been overdone with sombre hues. It will stand a dash of light and sunshine.

Farmers who do not spend money willingly for seed corn, and who have ample reason to believe that their own crop is unfit for planting, constitute a class for which it is impossible agreeably to

prescribe. If they are sure that their own seed is unsafe, their only alternative is to buy from reputable growers or dealers. Advice which urges an expenditure of money seldom pleases the recipient, especially if he is hard-pressed or cannot see the practical necessity for the outlay. Petty economies in connection with seed corn are often disastrously expensive. It does not pay to take chances with untested, frosted seed that lies under suspicion. It does not profit to save when it is wise to spend.

Attacking what no doubt is a common problem in many regions, we suggest that the farmer whose poor dependence for seed corn is on snow-covered or water-logged fields, get the crop into the crib as soon as possible, select a number of the best ears and test them. If they do not show at least ninety-seven per cent. vitality they would not produce a satisfactory stand, although thousands of bushels of corn will be planted next spring which if tested, would show less than ninety-seven per cent. of strong, living germs. Some men will plant seed of proved low vitality rather than buy the best grade at elevated prices.

Now is the time to test every seed ear that has been exposed to injurious weather. Ascertain without delay what can be expected of the seed on hand or soon to be selected from field or shock. Test three to five kernels from each ear.—*The Breeder's Gazette*, Chicago.

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We note in the *Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist*, that dozens of shipments of bananas have been tried from Honolulu to the Mainland, to San Francisco, which have arrived in good condition, but the receipts have been so small that the freight could not be covered. It is therefore concluded that there they cannot expect at present to raise bananas and market them in San Francisco, their nearest city on the Mainland.

The pineapple situation is somewhat similar, especially as to shipping fresh fruits. Tremendous loss is sometimes sustained from rot, and the enormous cost of shipping in cold storage to prevent that rot is almost prohibitive. An instance of shipments from one pine plantation which has practically lost $4,500 (£900) on its crop, the receipts not even paying for the freights. Under these conditions there are left for the Hawaiian agriculturists only very few crops which can be safely grown by the small growers with the idea that there is to be a certain market for the farmer. The advices say that the land is suitable to grow rubber, which will give a reasonable price provided it is brought to the market in a standard form.

A remedy for ink stains on white linen is hot tallow. Dip the spots in the melted tallow, let it cool, then brush off and launder.

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When acid fruits set the teeth on edge, the acidity may be counteracted by a wash made by dissolving a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda in half a pint of water.

POUND LAWS.

OUR readers will have noticed that the question of approaching the Government concerning some of the Pound Laws, so that both owners of property and owners of stock may be better protected against the careless stock owners and especially against those who deliberately turn out their stock to get free pasturage, has been brought before the Board of Management. The various Parochial Boards have been communicated with and while in those districts where stock-rearing is one of the principal industries and there is usually plenty of pasturage, there is no great trouble, yet, in the highly cultivated districts where pastures are scarce, it is becoming an increasing nuisance and an increasing heavy expense for owners of valuable cultivations to protect themselves from stock feeding along the roadside. Such cultivations as banana and cocoa can be damaged in a single night by a single jackass or mule, more than the value of the animal. We publish a letter which gives a fair indication of how the matter stands.

Another instance in my experience shows how ridiculously low the pound fees are. On Wednesday a servant brought in two mules found together in my banana field. I kept them till the following morning and since no one came to claim them I sent them to the pound, which is at Linstead, fourteen miles off. This cost me one shilling, and as compared with the pasturage charges on telegrams, is about one-tenth. From the pound-keeper I received one shilling, so that I have kept two mules almost a full day and sent them fourteen miles to the pound for nothing, besides losing the services of a good sized boy for one day. With existing poundage fees it certainly is cheaper for a man with one or two mules to despasture them on his neighbour's land and catch them early in the morning on the chance of paying a couple of shillings occasionally than to keep a paddock of his own, fence it and keep it clean. Years ago the poundage fees were correct. It has proved a mistake to have changed them, and I hope this matter will be kept in view until the law on this matter is changed. The very fact that stock are continually turned loose to feed on the roadside and stray on to my land and that of other owners in spite of the fact that I am continually pounding them and receiving the legal fee, shows that this fee wants regulating. The law authorises officers of the Public Works Department and constables to pound stock loose on the main roads, but it is never done in this district nor anywhere else I know of, simply because the fees are too small to pay for the trouble taken.—JNO. LOCKETT.

Troja, March 30th, 1910.

COMMENTS.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.—Will Secretaries please note to write a covering letter with their "Branch Notes" if there is anything in them requiring the attention of this office, otherwise resolutions requests, names of new members, or nominations under the revised Praedial Larceny Law, may not immediately be noted.

* * *

SHOWS AND INSTRUCTORS.—Show Committees should note to give at least six weeks' notice or better still, two months' notice to the Secretary, if they desire the services of any of the Agricultural

Instructors at their Show in addition to the Instructor for their parish.

The Itineraries of the Instructors are made up more than a month ahead and require to be submitted to the Instructors' Committee for approval.

* * *

Shows.—It is being arranged to hold the St. Mary Show this year at Nashville Common near Richmond and Highgate, a place handy to the Railway. A Show has also been arranged to be held by the Lucky Hill Branch at Goshen Pen, near Gayle, St. Mary, which will also serve parts of St. Ann.

Most successful Shows were held in March at Glengoffe, in St. Catherine, under the auspices of the local Branch, and at Bybrook, under the auspices of the St. Thomas-ye-Vale Branch. When St. Catherine does undertake anything in earnest, it does things thoroughly well. The parish, however, has been slow to undertake.

* * *

Woodpeckers.—Fair Prospect Branch forwarded a resolution to the Board calling attention to the destruction of cocoa pods by Woodpeckers, and asking that these birds be removed from the list of protected birds. The Board, however, hesitates to take any such step without having much fuller information that Woodpeckers are really such depredators. Readers of the Journal who grow cocoa might give the Secretary the results of their observations and experiences and we hope that Branch Societies in cocoa-growing districts will discuss the subject and let us have the views of their members.

* * *

Rubber.—Years back when planters in various tropical countries began to plant rubber trees systematically,—some no doubt, tentatively, some hopefully, some after deep deliberation and calculation,—no one we are sure, even the most sanguine, most optimistic, or shrewdest, and most far-seeing men, ever anticipated the position of the rubber market as it stands to-day. We remember ourselves, trying to look into the future and estimate how long the "round dollar," 4/- per pound, would remain the standard price of the best Para. Now the price is over ten shillings, and there is hardly anything in the history of stocks and shares, not even in the days of the boom in gold mines, like the present rush for shares in rubber companies, the hasty and, we fear, indiscriminate floating of rubber companies and the wild anticipations of high returns.

We are afraid the rubber trade may suffer from it all; thousands of investors will probably lose good money, and scores of the companies floated will in all likelihood, never pay dividends. Yet there are, and will be hundreds—yes hundreds—of good, sound rubber companies, and the thousands of investors making money out of them now will continue to do so, and many thousands more will also reap good returns.

SEEDS.—The scarcity of corn, peas, beans and such like throughout the Island, especially good seed for planting, has been borne heavily upon us and we have not been able to cope with the pressing orders, especially as the weather broke in the middle of the month and grand planting rains came, which everyone wanted to take advantage of. We ran out of Cowpeas early, but for green dressing through bananas recommended *Jerusalem* Peas as a *first substitute*; we also *recommended Bengal* and Velvet Beans. Of the former we have still a supply. Good seed corn was very late in coming in this season; we have still plenty of Guinea Corn.

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GREEN MULCH.—For ten years we have patiently written of the various legumes which ought to be utilised for the triple purpose of (1) covering the land with a plant under control to keep down and crush out weeds; (2) providing a cheap mulch, as mulching material which has to be cut and carried on the land, is often difficult to get in quantity and is expensive to apply; this thick covering of vine should be cutlassed down when in blossom and let lie until it rots, when it can be forked in; (3) supplying humus and nitrogen.

We are glad this year so much of this kind of planting is being done among bananas.

In a tropical country where such heavy rains may fall and cake the dust mulch, beat even newly forked soil hard, and wash the soft top soil into the open drains, or away into water courses, the green mulch is the practice that should prevail. As soon as the crop, whatever it is, is planted, get the soil covered, so that rains will not beat it or wash it, or the sun bake it.

Cowpeas, Jerusalem Peas, Bengal or Velvet Beans are now well known and the seed is easier to save than Beggar Weed, but under certain conditions—permanent crops for instance—give us the Beggar Weed. Then it can be allowed to drop its seed and renew itself.

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHOWS.—In response to many requests made over a series of years for us to write hints on the running of Agricultural Shows, we published in the JOURNAL for November, 1909, a very exhaustive treatise, which we think covered every item. If these hints were followed right through, no confusion through omissions or lack of experience would occur. Yet we have only found, so far, one Show Committee that has apparently followed them out.

The omission to provide for the watering of stock at Shows is really a grave omission, and we confess, puts us out.

A most important part of the Show never arranged for properly, is the delivery of exhibits to exhibitors at the close: this is where confusion occurs leading to irritation, charges of stealing, and so on. We have always made it a point to be in attendance at

that time ; the Instructors present should also be in attendance, and some of the Committee.

The Instructors indeed are intended then to give all the information and explanation they can to inquiring exhibitors regarding the quality of their exhibits, where they have failed, where the prize winners have excelled, and so on.

We think it is quite proper for exhibitors to ask explanations of judges when these are Instructors and if the inquiries are made in a good sportsmanlike spirit. Private people who have assisted in the judging in an honorary capacity, however, cannot be expected to spend their time giving explanations of judgments ; if they like to do so it is painstaking on their part. That is one of the reasons why we think that at all Shows an Instructor should, so far as possible, be associated with an honourary judge in agricultural products.

* * *

ORANGES.—We refer all those interested in the orange trade to the correspondence, etc., published in the report of the proceedings of the Board of Management in this JOURNAL. We should like to have the opinions of practical men who have given thought to the matter of Railway facilities offered, and the opinions expressed regarding the shipment by rail of the products of the Island. It will be seen that a comparison is made between the orange trade and the banana trade. There is, of course, no comparison. The banana industry is prosperous, there is no duty on our bananas in the United States. If the orange trade is in a bad way through the duty against us in our nearest markets, and through difficulties of successful shipment to the United Kingdom owing to distance, a little fostering by the country would make all the difference between something and nothing to shippers in a trade that employs pickers, carriers, packers, etc., and provides cargo for steamers, besides giving freight to the Railway for shooks, which are imported—if this trade which gives a large measure of support to some parishes, can be made to pay by a little help from the Railway it should get it. If it requires better conveniences on the Railway, if it requires more care on the Railway, if it requires more work on the part of Railway employees to help make it pay, and if without all these facilities it cannot pay, yet with these facilities it can be made to afford a margin, then such facilities should be given. No part of the Island is independent of another, and what affects one parish affects all ; if even one parish—Manchester—a great orange-producing district, which has largely depended upon the citrus trade, is to go to ruin because the Jamaica Government Railway is not inclined to trouble about it, is not inclined to carry freight without a good margin of profit, then we should like the opinion of the Island on this policy. There is no business in the world that does not carry lines of goods that do not return direct profit at all, yet it would ruin the whole business not to keep such lines in stock, because they help to attract other and more profitable trade, or perhaps keep the staff employed

at times of the year when there may be dullness in other lines. The Jamaica Government Railway requires to be run on commercial lines as a business,—it is not run as a business at present we fear.

* * *

HONEY AND WAX.—This industry is already a valuable one to the Colony, but if it is developed along careful lines it can be very nearly the most valuable to the Colony. It is predicted that there will be no low prices for honey and wax for a good many years to come. Both of these products have come into their own, that is, there are purposes that can be served by these that cannot be served so well by any other product. The natural sugar in honey makes it of such use in medicine as cannot be served by cane or beet or any other form of manufactured sugar. Honey is being used in the higher class of cakes, sweet biscuits, and sweetmeats more largely every year. Beeswax has also been found to be increasingly indispensable in many directions.

Every bee-keeper should grow some sugar cane, and when the hard time comes along about October, he will be able to feed his bees on the sugar liquor (if necessary boiled down) without much expense.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Only letters with replies likely to be of general use are published here).

May I suggest through the instrumentality of the JOURNAL, an improvement on one of the conditions now existing. It is so simple that I wonder it has not been proposed before. Most of the estates and properties keep a grindstone for sharpening the hoes of the work people in cleaning pastures. This in a short time becomes any shape but round, which it ought to be. If some enterprising blacksmith would name a day on which all hoes brought to him would be beaten out at a low price, say a quattie a hoe, the life of the hoe would be increased. Under present conditions, a hoe from a quarter to three-eighths of an inch thick, is brought and ground down, using up the life of the hoe and the grindstone unnecessarily. In Canada all ploughshares are beaten out, why not hoes? The finding of a grindstone by property-keepers is a survival from slavery days and was a necessity of the conditions then existing, as they knew no better.—(DR.) H. AUBREY HUSBAND, Newport.

* * *

Would you kindly give me any information possible *re* the "Cultivation of Bananas," especially in connection with the "disease" which is now becoming so universal. I am an Englishman and have some one hundred acres, which is being destroyed wholesale by a most pernicious disease attacking the suckers at all ages, marking them first with a brownish coloured spot, and ending in the whole plant turning black with an offensive odour. The planters here are suffering considerable loss, and any hints would be most acceptable. The natives say burning is the only cure, as the fire kills out the disease and strengthens the suckers, but noticing our Government had recently studied this question elsewhere, I take this liberty in seeking your aid. Thanking you in anticipation.—E. C. M.—Laguna de Perlas, Bluefields, Nicaragua, 20/2/'10.

[The disease is no doubt largely due to the long and dense growth of bananas continuously on the same land. We have suggested taking parts of the plantation in rotation, cutting down the bananas and letting bush grow up, then cleaning again and burning over (which is cheapest).—The

alternative is cutting down the suckers, turning up the soil, letting the sun on it and then heavily liming.

Evidently this disease is spreading through Central America, and as we are so very interested in, so very dependent on bananas, it should be the duty of the Colony to make enquiry into the specific nature of the disease and take the most careful measures to prevent its introduction here.—ED.]

BRANCH NOTES.

Red Hills (St. Andrew).—A meeting of this Branch was called on Monday, 14th February. The members present were: Mr. A. H. Rogers (presiding), Messrs. Charles Lee, John Williams, David Phillips, Jacob Matthews, Ernest Rainford, William Boufield, H. Parker, William Lewis and Jas. M. Wallen, Secretary. The Secretary here gave several reasons for calling for a meeting of those members who may be willing to continue, among which was the sorrow expressed as well as the encouragement given by Mr. Briscoe, the Travelling Instructor, when he visited the district a few weeks ago. He ended by urging upon the members present the necessity of making a new start. The President here followed in the same strain and shewed that the Red Hills Branch Society was a necessity. Some of the members present also spoke. Five paid in their subscriptions and the meeting was adjourned for the 28th February. On this day (28th February), there were present Messrs. A. H. Rogers (President), J M. Wallen (Secretary), and ten other members. Messages from other members were sent asking to be excused from their attendance at this meeting. The minutes of the last and previous meeting, bearing date 19th April, 1909, were read and confirmed. The accounts were next read and the members were urged upon to pay up their subscriptions, as "No subscription, no JOURNAL," was the order of the parent Society. A list of "paid-up" members was read. The election of officers for the current year next took place. Mr. A. H. Rogers was unanimously re-elected President, Mr. Bonfield and Mr. Lee, Vice-presidents, and Mr. I. M. Wallen, Secretary. A list of gentlemen to be recommended as constables under the new Praedial Larceny Law, was submitted and discussed, but was allowed to remain over for a next meeting. On the subject of a water supply for the district, the Secretary moved, seconded by Mr. Rogers, "That the Government be written to and asked whether or not it is their intention to resume work and complete the Red Hills Tank?" The President also moved the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Lee, *re* the tick nuisance, which is to be sent up to the parent Society:—"Resolved that the parent Agricultural Society be asked to use its influence to secure legislation on the Tick Nuisance, with a view to having a law enacted to make it compulsory for all owners of stock to keep them free of ticks and thus exterminate, or failing that, reduce to a minimum, a pest which is the cause of a loss of many thousands of pounds to stock-raisers, and indirectly to the country at large. Ticks deter tourists and others to a large extent from enjoying to the full the many natural beauties of the Island; thus giving the country an unenviable reputation for insect pests, and detracting from its otherwise charming scenery. That in the opinion of this Society, a system of government inspection of stock is the only feasible and certain remedy for an evil, which has time and again come up for discussion, but upon which no definite action has ever been taken. That this proposed system of inspection is quite as reasonable as inspection as practised in other lands with regard to apiaries and in some cases in epidemic diseases among stock. That the tick nuisance is on the increase, and constitutes an evil which fully justifies definite action in coping with it." The President also suggested the formation of a jippi-jappa hat class under the auspices of this Society. This was agreed to and a Committee consisting of the President, Messrs. Reece, Rainford and Wallen, were appointed to consider and report at the next meeting, March 14th.—JAS. WALLEN, Secretary.

Portland Central (St. Margaret's Bay).—A meeting of this Branch was held on 26th February at Norwich. One of the objects of this meeting was for getting a larger membership and so add strength to the Branch. The following members were present: Rev. P. A. Conahan, President, in the chair, Messrs. W. Cradwick and Arnett, Travelling Instructors, eight members, and five visitors, all of whom were enrolled as members and several others. After the reading and confirming of the minutes, a warm discussion followed on the great necessity for better roads for Portland in general and about the districts around St. Margaret's Bay in particular. Both the Instructors, who were travelling through these districts during the week, as well as the President, pointed out how necessary roads in these parts were. A petition is being got up in connection with this matter. The Branch is still more impressed with the necessity for another class to the Holdings Competition, and will again approach the Jamaica Agricultural Society to add another class to embrace holdings between half and one acre. Matters connecced with the Praedial Larceny Law was left over until next meeting, when more information relative to it will be got. It was gratifying to learn that Master Frank Stanton, a scholar of St. Margaret's Bay School, was one of the students selected for the Government Farm School at Hope. A letter from the St. George's Branch Society was read and its object explained by Mr. Cradwick. It was to the effect of getting the co-operation of the Branch in the proposals of their next Show, to be held in August. After the President had pointed out what he thought were difficulties, he moved, seconded by Mr. Roper, that further discussion on this subject be deferred. Lectures by the Instructors next followed. Mr. Cradwick dealt at length on the utility of being a member of the Society, while Mr. Arnett spoke on the benefits of co-operation, the raising of small stock, the improvement of holdings, the growing of permanent crops and "catch" crops such as yams, potatoes, etc. The President appealed to the visitors to become members, after which hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the Instructors. The next meeting will be held at St. Margaret's Bay on Saturday, the 19th March.

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Trinity Ville (St. Thomas).—The February meeting of this Branch was held at the usual time when there were present Messrs. W. A. R. Car, President; I. Morgan, G. Telfer, F. A. Stewart and the Secretary. The minutes of the last meetings were read and confirmed. The Secretary reported that he had collected £1 2s. 6d. towards the *Gleaner* Fund for the sufferers during the recent flood, making a total of £2 3s. 6d. with the guinea voted by the Society, and which amount was forwarded and duly acknowledged. Subscription was received. Messrs. F. C. H. Gray, Henry Logan, James Barnes, James Prendergast, and Alex. Blake were enrolled as new members. The following resolution was passed on motion of Mr. Edman and Mr. Stewart:—"That this Branch after discussing the extension of the Prize Holdings Competition, finds that the bigger man will be included, for which the said competition was not intended. The Society therefore protests against the extension from twenty to fifty acres, but is of the opinion that another class be added to facilitate the smaller man, and that should be a fourth class of from one to two acres, and the present third class should be from three to six acres." The meeting not being a large one, the appointment of authorised persons under the new Praedial Larceny Law, was further postponed. Other minor matters were dealt with and the meeting adjourned.—J. T. EDMAN, Secretary.

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The regular monthly meeting of the above-named Branch was held on the 4th March. There were present: Mr. W. A. R. Carr and twelve members and J. T. Edman, Secretary. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, a letter was read from Mr. Crad-

wick *re* co-operation in Show to be held at Buff Bay. It was decided to give the matter further consideration. Read letter from Mr. Briscoe *re* fowls. Subscription received. R. A. Lightbourne, Esq., was enrolled as a new member. The President brought up the matter of the cassava industry (promise made at last meeting). He spoke at some length also Mr. Edwards, of the different uses it could be put to. It was decided to ask Mr. Barclay about the "Farine Pan" and that members should take up the industry, as it is now much neglected. The Praedial Larceny Law was next dealt with. Mr. Edwards welcomed such a law and hoped to see a check to the present "curse." Other speakers followed. The following persons were nominated to be authorised persons under the law: Thomas Miles, Golden Valley, Seaforth P/O.; Nathan Rushford, Thornton, Seaforth P/O.; Smart Wilso, Mt. Lebanus, Trinity Ville P/O; James A. Telfer, Somerset, Trinity Ville P/O.; John A. Bogle, Trinity Ville P/O.; Frederick A. Stewart, Mt. Lebanus, Trinity Ville P/O.; Thomas Cooper, Coley Lot, Trinity Ville P/O.; Joseph S. Gordon, Reid Mountain, Trinity Ville P/O.; James Spleen, Wakefield, Trinity Ville P/O.; Alfred Davey, Mailey, Trinity Ville P/O.; Luther Burgher, Mailey, Trinity Ville P/O.; Alexander Taylor, Greenfield, Trinity Ville P/O. The meeting then adjourned to the first Friday in April.—J. T. EDMAN, Secretary.

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Fair Prospect (Portland).—At the annual meeting of this Branch held on Saturday, 19th February, 1910, there were present: R. Henry Elworthy, Esq., President; Messrs. Cradwick, Arnett and Wates (Travelling Instructors), about thirty members and nearly as many visitors. The Secretary was also present. The cause of this large attendance was undoubtedly due to the sending out of over forty circulars to members whose presence was solicited. Rev. S. I. Moodie led in the opening prayer. The minutes of the Committee meeting were read and adopted. The minutes of last monthly meeting were also read and duly confirmed. The several matters arising out of the minutes were dealt with. Four letters were read and gone into. The Secretary, followed by the local Instructor, Rev. Moodie and Mr. Wallace, spoke on the Cassava Experimental Plot. The following Tuesday was fixed for members to turn out and complete fencing as well as any other work on the plot. The keeper of the forks presented his book showing to the Society's credit a net income of seven shillings and two pence—received with thanks. The Treasurer of the Penny Savings Bank submitted a report showing to the 27th January last, ninety-four depositors with an amount of £86 14s. 11d. deposited. The Treasurer of the Society (who is also the Treasurer of the Penny Bank) presented also the report of the Society's finances, showing for the year a receipt of £4 4s. 11½d., as against an expenditure of £3 13s. 3d. Balance in hand 11/8½d. These reports were adopted and a vote of thanks accorded the Treasurer. The Secretary's report was also presented and adopted. Among other things it showed that fifteen new members were enrolled during the year, an accredited number of fifty-three on book, the several undertakings of the Society during the year, etc. This report, on a motion put and carried, was ordered to be published. The Chairman's address next followed. He first spoke on the cassava business, then went on to say all labour is honourable—then of the lack of joining the Agricultural Society by our young men principally. The Island, he said, is an agricultural one, there is no need to go to anything else. Then he spoke of the young men who go away and return all diseased, contracting vice, and perhaps a very small percentage with any appreciable amount of money. In closing the President urged on our sticking to our Island home. The Secretary would not allow an address like the above to go unchallenged and said on rising: "I am sorry, but I have to disagree with most of what the Chairman has said in his address, but in due consideration of the audience, with the number of items left on the agenda, I shall just state one or two objections, which he did in just a short time. The appointment of officers for the ensuing year next followed. After many

nominations, the following were elected to office: President. R. Henry Elworthy (re-elected); first Vice-president, Rev. S. I. Moodie (elected); second Vice-president, W. A. Ellison (elected); third Vice-president, E. R. Wallace (elected); Secretary, W. Zechariah Buckley (re-elected); *Assistant Secretary, (Miss) M. M. Binns (elected)*; *Treasurer*, J. W. Munroe (re-elected). The following ladies and gentlemen in conjunction with the afore-mentioned officers (with power to add to their number), comprise the Managing Committee: John Burke, Herbert Lawrence, John Panton, Albert Kelly, David Munroe, Miss J. A. Miller and Miss M. C. Munroe. Five to form a quorum. Among the items "miscellaneous," Mr. E. R. Wallace advanced a scheme relative to a District Post Office at Long Bay, *which received some attention.* This part of the programme being over, the three Instructors present were each in turn allowed the platform. Mr. Arnett headed the list. He thought much work had been done in this immediate district in the preparation of the holdings, but immediately drew attention to a weak point in the competition around these quarters. The necessity of looking after our permanent crops—a mainstay for our old days. A more decided effort, he said, ought to be made in permanent crops. Continuing he said, "catch crops" ought also to be looked after more keenly. The speaker in closing, hoped that if permitted to return three years hence, to see a decided improvement in these directions. The next speaker was Mr. Cradwick, who queried how the seedling canes got from Hope were getting on, and was informed that the surviving plants were giving satisfaction. The Instructor (Mr. Cradwick) thought the Secretary ought to note the progress made by them from time to time. He then went on to the Prize Holdings Competition, saying he was quite in favour of a one-acre or less class in Portland. By way of encouragement, Mr. Cradwick stated how he fought for the Small Holdings Competition—the opposition met and surmounted, and now is hopeful of the one acre. He is anxious he said to modify this scheme. This competition is intended to better our condition and our children's in every way—better homes, brighter surroundings. Our homes, he said, are not sufficiently attractive and bright for children—a habit in Jamaica which causes many children to lose attractions at home and frequently get into mischief. The speaker touched also on permanent crops and the great encouragement given. Coconuts, which ought to be helped—ought to be helped by giving it manure. He wants the Society to take the subject in hand and make the most out of the local Instructor. The coconut business is a very important business. Coconut diseases are spreading very much in these districts, Mr. Cradwick said, and we must work the Instructor and take the most out of him. Continuing, Mr. Cradwick said we should cut down all those old, wretched diseased trees, which infect the younger ones. Mention was made of a particular tree observed in the neighbourhood, which Mr. Wates will be willing to show any one willing to see it. In closing, the lecturer said it is right and wise to find out all about these diseases in coconuts. Mr. Wates next gave his address. He spoke on the cassava plot and thought some other experiments could be made on the remaining land at Milford at the disposal of the Society. He also thought that the officers and Committee should have a definite plan before them for this year, he also further thought that enough has not been done to interest outsiders. He further promised to do as much as he could—to give more details in the working of these different things. Mr. Wates thought that by the use of lanterns, etc., agricultural matters could be drawn out, and thus a production of more good. After expressing a little (righteous) jealousy at the very large attendance at the presence of the other two Instouctors beside him, which had never been his lot to witness here, and after stating his indebtedness to Mr. Cradwick for the invaluable help received from him from time to time, Mr. Wates ended up wishing the Society "luck." After the usual votes of thanks and of receiving of subscriptions, the meeting was brought to a close. two

Albany (St. Mary).—This Branch met at Martins, March 16th, 1910. There were present nineteen members. In the absence of the President and Vice-presidents, Mr. Chamberlain was called to the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The following applied to be members and were accepted:—Messrs. David White, William Calder, Titus Morrison, R. A. Morris, A. Russel, Jas. W. Spencer, Julius Reynolds and Edward Gordon. The Secretary intimated that the road from Cove to Friendship was now a first-class road, and that arrangements were in progress for the starting of the hat class. The Society instructed the Secretary to make arrangements for lodging the Instructor, and to request the Salem Committee to allow the class to be kept in the Church; and to ask the Trustees of Surpluses from Shows to make a grant of £5 more towards the expenses of the class. The meeting considered the state of the roads and the Secretary was instructed to request the Superintendent of Public Works for the parish to facilitate the public by making such improvements on the road passing through Albany as will prevent pedestrians from walking in the water of McKie Spring and another at the cotton tree near Albany, as these springs cause much inconvenience during the rainy season; also to ask the Superintendent to drain the pools beside the road through Islington, as these pools afford means for the propagation of insect pests and are a menace to the good health of the district. The Secretary was instructed to point out to the Parochial Board that since the grant of £120 had been spent on road 18 very little had been done to the road, and the portion put in order was not being used as it might be on account of a few chains having no metal on. The Society is of opinion that a judicious expenditure during the past two years could have put the road in good order. The Society respectfully asks the Board to instruct its Superintendent to make a report on the expenditure on this road for the two years ending 31st March, 1910. The Secretary was asked to write Mr. Benjamin *re* culvert at junction at Friendship. The Society agreed to recommend the following as authorised persons in *re* the Praedial Larceny Law:—P. J. Powell, Albany P.O.; Thomas Robinson, Friendship, Port Maria P.O.; John Reynolds, Martins, Albany P.O. The labour question was considered, and after some discussion, the following resolution was agreed to:—"This Society is pleased to see the notice of motion *re* East Indian Immigration tabled by the hon. member for St. Catherine, and respectfully asks the Hon. R. P. Simmonds to support this motion. The Secretary informed the meeting that Mr. Cradwick was unable to be present, and that it was arranged that the St. Mary's Show be held at Nashville on the 14th July. The following were appointed to represent the Society on the Show Committee: Messrs. J. D. Forbes, W. Morris, R. Williams, L. S. Clarke, Jno. Reynolds and C. A. Wilson. The meeting adjourned to meet at Albany on the third Wednesday of April or on such other day as Mr. Cradwick and the President might appoint.—C. A. WILSON, Secretary.

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Avocat (Portland).—The first monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Schoolroom on the 14th March, at 4.30 p.m. There were present: Messrs. Zechariah N. McBayne, Robert P. Murray, William McLean, Thomas H. Minott, Augustus S. Sullivan, George Henderson, Edward Ellis, David A. Moodie and J. N. Perkins. Owing to the inclemency of the weather on the evening, several members were frustrated from being present. In the absence of the President, Mr. Z. N. McBayne presided. After a short address by the Secretary, the election of officers followed, which resulted as follows: Rev. Father P. F. X. Mulry, S.J., President; Mr. R. P. Murray, Vice-president; Mr. Joseph Smith, Treasurer, and J. N. Perkins Honourary Secretary. The Secretary reported that owing to severe rains, no meetings could be held in December and January, and the February one fell through, being amenable to the same cause. The members expressed regret that during the last two years they had had no sale for oranges, grape fruit, etc., the result being that

over two-thirds of the yearly crops have fallen off the trees and wasted; many of the people, especially the infirm and aged men are dependent on same as a means of support; this gradual deterioration accounts for the general depression in the district. Mr. David Moodie moved, seconded by Messrs. Murray and Sullivan, and unanimously carried, that the Secretary of the parent Society be respectfully asked to recommend some firm or market where their fruits can be sold and obtain fair prices. A lengthy debate then followed about the Prize Holdings Competition; all the members seemed as though deeply interested in it, and promised to make application as early as possible. Five of the members have already given in their names, viz., Messrs. Moodie, Murray, McLean, Minott and the Chairman. The attention of the meeting was next drawn towards the deplorable condition of the road from St. Mary to Belcarres and Mt. Pleasant, as also the Lovely Grove road leading from Silver Hill Bridge to Foxes Gap. It was decided to approach the authorities of the Government concerning same. Other relevant matters and correspondence were left to be dealt with at the next meeting on the 9th April At the close of the meeting the Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the Secretary for the success of the meeting.—I. N. PERKINS, Secretary.

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Troja (St. Catherine).—A very interesting meeting of this Branch was held on the 24th February. Nearly all the officers of the Society were present, together with thirty-two members. There were also a few visitors in attendance, among whom were the President and Secretary of the Upper Metcalfe Society. The minutes were read and confirmed. The chief thing on the agenda was a lecture on the "Growing of Vegetables for Pleasure and for Profit," by the Rev. H. B. Walcott. This was very masterly delivered. During its course, many kinds of small tools were exhibited and their proper uses explained. A variety of seeds in small packets were also shown. Several books dealing with the "Cultivation of Vegetables," were left by Mr. Walcott for the use of the members. A vote of thanks, moved by Mr. A. McNeil, seconded by Mr. Wm. Ferguson, was tendered him. On another motion by Mr. McNeil, unanimously carried. Mr. R. A. Cruikshank was elected joint Assistant Secretary with Mr. C. M. Anderson. Mr. Ebenezer Laurence was enrolled as a new member. The names of the following members of the Upper Metcalfe Branch were transferred to this Society, in which they have now enrolled: Messrs. Ebenezer Laurence, Edward Taylor, A. H. Wright, Henry Hamilton, J. S. Hyds, John Hynds, Erastus Nelson and Nathan Martin. The meeting was then adjourned to meet again on the 24th March.—A. VIVIAN HAGUES, Secretary.

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Santa Cruz Mountains (St. Elizabeth).—*Re* Malvern Show.—Mr. J. F. Goodison of Montpelier, asks that he be given credit for the first prize, Class 10—Brood mare under fifteen hands, with follower. The following is the complete list of subscriptions:—Already acknowledged, £39 7s. 6d. Hon. J. V. Calder, 21/-; H. E. Crum-Ewing, 10/6; J. F. Goodison, 10/6; D. E. Tomlinson, 5/-; N. E. Lewis, 5/-; "B" 5/-; Sums of 2/6 and under, 17/—Total £43 1s. 6d. Receipts—Subscriptions, £43 1s. 6d.; Entrance Fees, £12 16s. 6d.; Gate Money, £34 18s. 6d.; Stand. Booth, etc., £6 17s.; Grant from Jamaica Agricultural Society, £8 3s. 8d.—Total, £105 17s. 2d. Payments—Labour, Material, £14 14s. 8d.; Printing, Secretary's and Treasurer's Expenses, £9 1s. 6d.; Prize Money, £40 5s. 6d.; Rent of Marques, etc., £2 7s.; Band, Lunch, etc., £7 6s. 9d.; Balance in hand, £32 1s. 9d.—Total—£105 17s. 2d. Our next meeting will be held on the 18th April, 1910. At that meeting will be the (1) Reading of Reports; (2) Election of Officers; (3) Payments of Subscriptions, etc. As it is time for planting seeds, the members of the Santa Cruz Mountains Agricultural Society beg to ask whether it is possible for you to let them have some seeds, either gratis or for purchase—Cow Peas, etc. We are now experiencing

a severe drought, nevertheless, the pimento and coffee show signs of a favourable crop. We are asking you to let us know the cost of importing an Essex Boar of ordinary size and also, the cost of a pair—Boar and Shoat. The members are thinking of purchasing either a Boar or a Boar and Shoat.—N. E. SEAL, Secretary.

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Porus (Manchester).—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Church of England Schoolroom, on February, 7th At roll call fifteen members answered to their names. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence was read, one from Mr. Oates, of the Banana Farm Products of Canada, asking for samples of banana and other meals as were shown at the Porus Agricultural Show; also one from the St. George's Branch inviting our co-operation in exhibits to the coming Buff Bay Show, which was agreed to and the Secretary was instructed to ask for details. The election of a Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer was next dealt with. Messrs. C Rowland and O. Reddish were elected Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively, and Mr. D. Crosbie was elected Treasurer, but being absent, Mr. S A. Hendricks, J.P., was asked to accept the office if Mr. Crosbie should decline the office, which he has kindly consented to do. The water supply scheme was next considered, and Messrs. Magnus, Crosbie, Walters, McPherson, A. Thomas and J. Ogilvie, were appointed a Committee to meet the Committee from the Parochial Board to have the matter discussed. The subject of the Agricultural Loan Bank was brought up by the President and it was decided to take it into consideration, and after the reading of Mr. Palache's paper on thrift he will be asked for further explanation.—C. ROWLAND, Secretary.

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Fair Prospect (Portland).—Annual Report :—I take very great pleasure in presenting this, the 13th Annual Report of this Society. During the year under review, ten regular and three special meetings have been held. It is very much to be regretted how the greater number of members, in attending meetings, will not observe the hour—causing a few to sometimes wait out of patience. A large and regular attendance is keenly asked for. I am afraid that any business where punctuality is overlooked is doomed to failure. The meetings have, however, been on the whole, bright and influential. We have an accredited membership of fifty-three. During the year three or four members have removed to other parishes, one to the Canal Zone. Fifteen new members have been enrolled Of all the number on book, we have never had 18 of our members present at any one meeting. Will members who can attend and will not attend, please observe that if every one were to do as they, there could be no meeting. Let us be united so as to be strong. Correspondence has been carried on between the Secretary of the Society and the Secretary of the parent Society, from time to time, with Messrs. Levy, Cradwick and Wates, Agricultural Instructors, Messrs. Brown and Smith, Trustees of the Penny Bank, H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture, also the Acting Director of Agriculture, St. Margaret's Bay Branch, with individual members of the Society, etc. Much has been done for which we may well be encouraged to go forward and do more. The long-talked of Penny Savings Bank assumed a practical shape during the month of April, and bids fair to success. We have had several visits from Agricultural Instructors. In February, Mr. H. Q. Levy, who was then Acting Instructor for the parish, visited us and gave a masterly and practical address. Mr. W. Cradwick visited us in June, and did very good service, not only in lecturing but in going about the district demonstrating. Mr. L. A. Wates, the newly-appointed Instructor, visited the Society in August, October and November, and helped greatly by his presence and advice. Half-a-dozen forks were bought by the Society in June, which are being hired out at fourpence per week each to members and sixpence to non-members. It is a

matter of regret that sufficient patronage has not been received. Mr. Cradwick's help in securing these forks is beyond praise. The judging in the Prize Holdings Competition has now been going on. The local Instructor has been keept quite busy in going around shaping matters. Somewhere in March a disease in horsekind broke out in the adjoining parish and spread to Portland. The authorities took immediate action in combating the evil. The Hon. Director of Agriculture kindly sent us a very limited number of pamphlets dealing with the disease. A request was made for a few more copies which was granted. Those leaflets proved of immense value not only to those who had affected animals, but also to the entire district. The settling of an outstanding account of two or three years standing with Mr. H. Lawrence for the keeping of a pig, once possessed by the Society, was effected in June. Five hundred seedling canes were gratuitously got from Hope Gardens for members of the Society requesting them, who had to pay for the carriage of them from Port Antonio, that is, the members paying back the Society which advanced the amount. It is to be regretted that fermentation commenced its work, thus causing a loss of a goodly number. It is to be hoped that the surviving plants are giving satisfaction. After many unsuccessful attempts the Society has at last secured a suitable spot for the experimenting of cassava. The cutting down of the land and fencing of same has been going on. This is just the beginning—the best season it would appear is now on, and I sincerely trust that members will rise to their obligations in completely fencing round the area, and so to deliver over to the local Instructor who supervises. It is further to be hoped that when the time comes for forking, all members personally or by representatives, will turn out to do it. Remember that the profits will be all ours During the year we also received some very useful reading matter from the German Kali Works, for which we are very thankful. The Society has nominated seven men under the new Praedial Larceny Law (Law 4 of 1909), who have been appointed by the Government. It is to be hoped that these men will act with all fairness and uprightness and with discretion Some very important resolutions have been forwarded to the Government by this Society, which have all been favourably received. And while on this subject, allow me to make one or two observations: first, there have been passed many resolutions which get no further than being passed; second,—the hurried and undigested manner of pushing in some of the motions, which practice has a tendency to do more harm than good. A motion should be well considered and the mover of such be willing and ready, with the help of the Society, to bring matters to a practical turn, as much as in them lies. I mention these, our weak points, so that they may be rectified. In conclusion, I must repeat, that the current year is one which brings some amount of satisfaction, which should stimulate us to still go forward. And having in our midst our own Agricultural Instructor, I see no reason why we should not individually as well as a Society, double our energies, in order to better our condition. I would advocate more discussion and debate on current matters. Let us but exercise that indispensable spirit of push, determination and unity in matters which concern our welfare, and then shall we, if spared to see the close of another year, have cause to be much more thankful than we are this evening.—W. ZACHARIAH BUCKLEY, Secretary.

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Upper Metcalfe (St. Mary).—The regular monthly meeting of this Society was held in the Brainerd Schoolroom on the afternoon of Thursday, 17th February. Along with the President, there were thirty-eight members present, the attendance being rendered smaller than was expected by the funeral service of Mr. Charles Brown Walters, which was timed for the same hour. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, letters were read from Mr. Henry Toyloy requesting that the Society seek to have a Justice of the Peace appointed for the district, and

from the Registrar General in reply to the resolution sent him from the Society at its last meeting. For various reasons the discussion of both letters was postponed for the next meeting. The Show to be held at Glengoffe was next dealt with and the members were urged to give the Show support by sending exhibits and by attending themselves. The President spoke weightily in support of the proposal to hold a Show at Nashville, and the result was the passing of the following resolution :—"That the Upper Metcalfe Branch of the Agricultural Society, will co-operate with other Branch Societies and other interested parties in making the proposed Show at Nashville a success and that the Show Committee can depend upon these districts for hearty support. Next followed a discussion upon the methods whereby the cultivations of the small settlers could be vastly improved, in which the President as well as the Rev. T. H. Grant and Mr. S. A. Schleifer took part. The more liberal use of the fork was urged upon the members and several comparisons were made to show the gain that would result. Several questions were answered, and upon Mr. William Hunter hinting that forking alone was not sufficient upon the hill sides, but that trenching was also of great importance, Mr. Schleifer was asked to read his paper upon "Trenching." Appreciation of the paper was expressed and from the remarks made it is to be hoped that there will soon be a great agricultural awakening in the district. The following were elected members :—Messrs. U. Beckford, Alexander Coubrie, James Robinson, Collin Bonner, Peter Morrison, Matthew Pommells, Richard Williams and Miss Ellen Crawford. The Secretary proposed the enlivening of future meetings by the rendering of suitable songs and the idea was warmly approved of. The meeting adjourned.

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Santa Cruz (St. Elizabeth).—This Branch met for business on the 17th February at 5 p.m. There were present: the Travelling Instructor, the Secretary, Messrs. F. A. Williams, J. F. McKinley, A. Lodge, S. Burton, C. A. Robinson, D. McLean and E. Thompson. The President was prevented from attending through illness. Mr. F. A. Williams was voted to the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, after which the fourth annual report of the Society was presented, read and adopted. As the attendance was small, the election of officers, some important communications, and discussion *re* the Society's Show, to be held on the 9th November, were left over for the April meeting. Mr. F. A Williams was appointed by the meeting to speak with the Clergyman and Committee of the St. Andrew's Church with a view to securing a portion of the school land at Santa Cruz as a small garden for the Society's use. A few remarks on the uses of Agricultural Societies and co-operation at Shows by the Instructor, brought the meeting to a close. Date of next meeting 21st April.—S. AUG. BLYTHE, Secretary.

REPORT.—I herewith beg to present the fourth annual report of the Santa Cruz Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, for the year ended 31st December, 1909. Considering the age of the Society and the facilities offered for its improvement, the membership should be greater—at least eighty. The attendance at meetings has been far from satisfactory. If this is taken as a sign of interest in the Society, few members apparently evince their interest in its advancement to any appreciable extent. The bi-monthly meetings have been regular ; only that for July fell through for want of a quorum. This was due to the inclemency of the weather. The Travelling Instructor has been able to address four of the five bi-monthly meetings held during the year. He spoke on various subjects, all of which received careful attention and appreciation. At the September meeting it was thought advisable to ask the members to give the Society the benefit of their practical experience in agriculture in the form of essays and extempore addresses, to create a greater interest in it. As a result, two papers were read, and if words are the true representative of one's feelings, there is evident hope that this new feature will bear the

desired fruit. I regret very much that the work of the Society has not impressed the class for whom it is intended as it might have. There does not seem to be sufficient actual demonstration on the part of the Society, to bring its usefulness prominently enough before the eyes and minds of this class in order to draw them to a new way of thinking, so to speak. Many attempts were made to bring the usefulness of the Society well before the class whom it can better benefit, but they took no working shape and left things as they were. I am afraid that not until something is done to show up the Society in the eyes of this class whereby it can be drawn, will it satisfy its aim and prove beneficial. No Show was held in connection with the Society this year, preference having been given to the Santa Cruz Mountains Society. Much support, however, was given to the Malvern and Appleton Shows by our members. The Society contemplates holding what may be termed a Parish Show in November, and here begs for the hearty co-operation of the public in general and the members in particular. An attempt was made on New Year's Day to increase the funds of the Society by holding a picnic, but this did not prove successful owing to the uncertainty of the weather, and preys somewhat on its original fund The financial condition of the Society now shows £3 3s. 1d. to its credit.—S. AUG. BLYTHE, Secretary.

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St. John's (St. Catherine).—A regular meeting of this Society was held on the 15th February at 7 p.m. This should have been the annual meeting, but owing to some uncontrollable circumstances. only seven persons put in their appearance, therefore only an ordinary meeting was held. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from W. Cradwick. Esq., Travelling Instructor, suggesting means by which members of Branch Societies could combine and send in collective exhibits to the proposed Show of the St. George's Branch on the 1st August. The members agreed to do as was suggested. The Secretary promised to take charge of these exhibits as he would endeavour to attend the Show. The following resolution which was moved by Mr. Banton and seconded by Mr. Richards, was unanimously carried:—"Knowing that the mongoose is the chief cause by which scratching and wading birds are decreasing in most if not all, parts of this Island, to say nothing of the havoc wrought on poultry, young goats, young pigs, etc., resolved that the parent Society respectfully approach the Government in order that a law might be passed preventing the importation of any more mongoose in this Island; for this Society is of opinion that some steps should be taken to rid us of this pest as is being done with the rats." The Secretary was asked whether he was notified as to when the ponds would be cleaned. He said no: but he presumed that someone in the meeting would be able to do so, as he was informed that the Superintendent came up recently and measured the pond at Aylmers. After this information was received the members expressed their regret that the Superintendent did not notify the Secretary as he had done previously. As a matter of fact the Society was expecting a letter through its Secretary. This motion was subsequently adopted:—"That this Society regrets to learn that the members were not notified as to when the Superintendent of Roads and Works was about to do the measuring of the pond at Aylmers, in order that it might have been represented. The members learn, however, that the price offered by the Superintendent on the day when he came up was less than that which we understand the Board had agreed to pay. We had since October last understood that 1/- per cubic yard would be paid; but we have now heard that 1/9 will be paid for a bar eight feet long, eight feet broad and one foot deep. We respectfully submit that according to our calculation, on the basis given by the Board, that a bar of earth should be 2/3 instead of 1/9,—sixpence less per bar." The meeting adjourned till the 15th March, when the annual meeting will be held.—S. A. BANTON, Secretary.